



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

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**Inmates to be Honored At
*Alternatives to Violence Graduation***

***Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown
July 8 at 7 p.m.***

TOWSON, MD (July 7, 2008)---Inmates who have successfully completed the most recent Alternatives to Violence basic workshop will be honored at the Maryland Correctional Institution-Hagerstown (MCI-H) during the annual Alternatives to Violence Project Annual Recognition Night on Tuesday, July 8 at 7 p.m.

Alternatives to Violence (AVP) has its roots in a Quaker-based program begun thirty years ago. It is an effort to teach inmates that there are, as the name implies, many alternatives to violent behavior. The program has been particularly successful at MCI-H, which has partnered with the outside volunteers who run Alternatives to Violence for more than ten years. During that time, MCI-H has hosted 140 basic AVP workshops, from which several hundred inmates have "graduated," generally twenty at a time.

AVP is a national and international nonprofit, based in Minnesota, which operates both in prisons and in the community. It had its prison start at Green Haven, New York. The organization was founded by the late Dr. Larry Apsey, who said: "I am giving my life to this work because I believe the world will destroy itself unless it learns the arts of peace, and peace begins with the individual."

MCI-H, one of three medium-security State prisons south of Hagerstown, has approximately 2,070 male inmates. The facility is supervised by Warden Rod Sowers, Assistant Warden Gregg Hershberger, and Security Chief Richard Dovey. It is a very well-run institution with many violence-reduction efforts in place.

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